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NEWS from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information
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Week of April 30, 1990

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Week of April 30, 1990

STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT: FEBRUARY 1990

WASHINGTON -- Employment on nonfarm payrolls was higher in February 1990 than a year earlier in 47 states and the District of Columbia, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Unemployment rates were lower than a year earlier in 27 states. The national unemployment rate for civilian workers was 5.8 percent in February, not seasonally adjusted, compared with 5.6 percent a year earlier.

Because the data for individual states and areas are not adjusted for seasonality, comparisons in this release are limited to changes from the same month a year earlier. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present a misleading picture of underlying economic trends.

Unemployment

Seven states experienced over-the-year declines of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate. The largest reduction was in Louisiana (2.4 percentage points). Seven states had over-the-year increases of more than 1 percentage point. The largest were in the New England states--Rhode Island (3.6 points), New Hampshire (2.1 points), Massachusetts (1.9 points), and Connecticut (1.7 points), followed by Pennsylvania (1.4 points) and Delaware and Michigan (both 1.3 points).

February unemployment rates were at or below 4 percent in five states--Nebraska (2.8 percent), Hawaii (3.1 percent), Maryland and North Carolina (both 3.9 percent), and South Dakota (4.0 percent). Unemployment rates were 7 percent or higher in 10 states, including Alaska (8.8 percent), West Virginia (8.4 percent), and Michigan (8.1 percent). (See the map.)

Of the 257 metropolitan areas for which February data are available, 34 had over-the-year decreases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more, and 52 had increases of that magnitude. Forty-one areas had rates at or below 4 percent, and 58 had rates of 7 percent or higher. The lowest rates were in Lincoln, Nebr. (2.0 percent) and Raleigh-Durham, N. C. (2.2 percent). The highest rate was in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Tex. (23.7 percent). (See table 3.)

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Employment

Payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of nonfarm establishments, rose by 2 percent or more in 32 states between February 1989 and 1990. Nevada continued to have the largest percentage job gain (9.3 percent), followed by Idaho (7.5 percent), Washington (5.6 percent), Alaska (5.1 percent), Utah (4.6 percent), Oregon (4.3 percent), and Hawaii and Kentucky (both 4.2 percent). The three states with over-the-year employment losses were all in New England.

Every state reported over-the-year employment gains in services, and nearly all had increases in trade and government. Over three-fourths of the states had higher employment levels in construction; transportation and public utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Over half reported employment increases in mining and manufacturing.

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Table 5. Unemployment rates by state and selected metropolitan areas (Percent)

State and area	January 1989	January 1990	February 1989	February 1990p
Alabama	7.9	6.7	7.4	7.1
Birmingham	6.2	5.2	5.8	5.3
Huntsville	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1
Mobile	9.7	7.2	9.6	7.2
Montgomery	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0
Tuscaloosa	5.6	4.6	5.2	9.5
Alaska	9.2	8.6	8.8	8.8
Arizona	5.3	4.4	5.6	4.6
Phoenix	4.6	3.7	4.6	3.8
Tucson	4.6	3.7	4.9	3.7
Arkansas	8.4	6.7	8.6	7.1
Fayetteville-Springdale	4.5	3.0	4.6	3.1
Fort Smith[1]	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.1
Little Rock-North Little Rock	6.4	5.3	6.7	5.6
Pine Bluff	8.8	6.8	9.0	7.6
California[2]	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.3
Anaheim-Santa Ana	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.7
Bakersfield	10.4	10.3	12.2	11.1
Fresno	11.2	10.7	12.8	12.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach[2]	4.4	5.9	4.4	5.5
Modesto	12.5	11.6	14.2	12.3
Oakland	4.4	4.0	4.5	3.7
Oxnard-Ventura	5.3	5.2	5.3	4.4
Riverside-San Bernardino	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.5
Sacramento	5.6	4.9	5.6	4.7
San Diego	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7
San Francisco	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.0
San Jose	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.6
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.4
Santa Rosa-Petaluma	5.2	4.4	5.2	4.1
Stockton	11.0	10.2	11.8	10.4
Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa	5.8	5.3	5.8	4.9
Colorado	6.9	5.4	7.0	6.2
Boulder-Longmont	5.3	4.0	5.5	4.5
Denver	6.3	5.0	6.4	5.7
Connecticut	3.6	4.8	3.6	5.3
Bridgeport-Milford	4.6	6.1	4.7	6.7
Hartford	3.3	4.2	3.2	4.6
New Britain	4.1	6.0	4.2	6.6
New Haven-Meriden	3.5	4.6	3.4	5.1
Stamford	2.2	3.1	2.2	3.5
Waterbury	4.7	7.1	4.7	7.4
Delaware	4.1	4.7	3.9	5.2
Wilmington[1]	4.3	5.5	3.9	5.0
District of Columbia	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.6
Washington[1]	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8
Florida[2]	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.8
Daytona Beach	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.5
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.1
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	4.2	4.3	3.5	4.5
Jacksonville	6.4	6.1	5.5	6.0
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.4
Miami-Hialeah	6.3	6.4	5.6	6.2
Orlando	5.7	5.4	4.8	5.6
Pensacola	7.5	6.3	6.7	6.4
Sarasota	4.1	4.1	3.4	4.6
Tallahassee	4.7	4.4	4.0	4.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	5.5	5.2	4.9	5.1
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	5.6	6.2	4.9	5.7
Georgia	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.9
Athens	4.4	4.5	3.8	4.1
Atlanta	4.7	5.0	4.6	4.6
Augusta[1]	5.5	4.5	5.5	4.3
Columbus[1]	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.5
Macon-Warner Robins	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.6
Savannah	5.2	5.6	5.2	4.4
Hawaii	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.1
Honolulu	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.9
Idaho	6.7	5.7	6.8	6.7
Boise City	4.2	3.7	4.2	4.4
Illinois[2]	6.4	6.9	6.2	6.6
Aurora-Elgin	5.9	6.6	5.6	6.5
Bloomington-Normal	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5
Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.2
Chicago	5.6	6.1	5.4	6.0
Davenport-Rock Island-Moline[1]	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.7
Decatur	8.6	8.2	7.8	7.7
Joliet	7.1	7.8	7.0	7.4
Kankakee	8.8	8.6	9.1	8.5
Lake County	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.3
Peoria	6.5	6.9	6.4	7.1
Rockford	6.2	9.0	6.2	6.6
Springfield	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.1
Indiana	5.1	5.8	5.6	5.6
Anderson	5.5	7.1	6.2	6.1
Bloomington	3.7	3.5	4.2	3.4
Elkhart-Goshen	4.2	5.7	4.5	5.5
Evansville[1]	5.4	5.8	6.6	6.5
Fort Wayne	4.5	6.4	4.8	5.0
Gary-Hammond	5.7	5.9	6.4	6.0
Indianapolis	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.3
Lafayette-West Lafayette	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5
Muncie	5.4	6.0	5.7	5.9
South Bend-Mishawaka	4.5	5.5	5.0	5.8
Terre Haute	6.0	5.7	6.2	5.0
Iowa	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.0
Cedar Rapids	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.6
Des Moines	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8
Dubuque	7.1	6.5	6.8	6.7
Sioux City[1]	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.0
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.8
Kansas	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.1
Topeka	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.2
Wichita	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.1
Kentucky	7.8	6.7	7.6	7.5
Lexington-Fayette	4.6	3.6	4.5	4.3
Louisville[1]	6.0	6.6	6.0	5.7
Owensboro	7.7	5.6	7.3	7.6
Louisiana	10.0	7.3	9.6	7.2
Alexandria	9.6	7.2	9.2	7.4
Baton Rouge	8.7	5.7	7.7	5.9
Houma-Thibodaux	10.1	6.9	9.6	7.2
Lafayette	8.8	5.9	8.5	6.2
Monroe	9.3	6.6	9.2	6.5
New Orleans	8.2	6.1	8.0	6.3
Shreveport	9.6	9.8	9.6	7.3
Maine	4.3	5.1	4.6	5.3
Lewiston-Auburn	5.2	5.9	5.2	7.0
Portland	2.2	3.1	2.6	3.3
Maryland	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9
Baltimore	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3
Massachusetts[2]	3.8	5.0	3.9	5.8
Boston	3.1	4.1	3.2	4.7
Brockton	4.3	5.8	4.5	6.8
Fall River[1]	6.7	9.1	6.8	10.2
Fitchburg-Leominster	4.9	6.4	5.0	7.5
Lawrence-Haverhill[1]	4.3	5.9	4.7	6.9
Lowell[1]	3.9	5.4	4.0	6.6
New Bedford	6.3	8.4	6.6	9.7
Pittsfield	5.5	5.3	5.7	6.4
Springfield	3.8	4.7	3.9	5.6
Worcester	3.6	5.1	3.7	5.9
Michigan[2]	7.8	9.4	6.8	8.1
Ann Arbor	3.7	6.2	3.4	4.3
Battle Creek	8.0	9.1	6.2	8.8
Benton Harbor	8.0	9.2	6.9	8.1
Detroit	7.5	8.7	6.5	7.8
Flint	12.8	17.9	9.9	9.5
Grand Rapids	5.5	6.7	4.7	6.2
Jackson	7.8	8.5	6.5	8.5
Kalamazoo	5.0	5.3	4.5	5.4
Lansing-East Lansing	5.9	9.9	5.5	7.7
Muskegon	9.6	9.0	8.3	9.8
Saginaw-Bay City-Midland	7.8	13.3	7.0	8.1
Minnesota	5.0	4.3	4.9	4.7
Duluth[1]	6.8	5.7	7.1	6.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul[1]	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.7
Rochester	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.9
St. Cloud	6.0	5.4	6.0	5.7
Mississippi	9.1	7.9	8.4	7.7
Jackson	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.0
Missouri	6.3	7.0	6.3	6.4
Kansas City[1]	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.0
St. Louis LMA[1]	6.1	6.7	6.0	6.1
Springfield	4.9	5.2	4.9	4.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Unemployment rates by state and selected metropolitan areas-Continued
(Percent)

State and area	January 1989	January 1990	February 1989	February 1990p
Montana	7.4	6.1	7.6	5.9
Nebraska	3.6	3.1	3.4	2.8
Lincoln	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.0
Omaha[1]	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.0
Nevada	5.6	5.1	5.8	4.9
Las Vegas	5.3	4.5	5.4	4.3
Reno	5.7	5.6	6.0	5.6
New Hampshire	2.6	4.5	2.8	4.9
Manchester	2.3	4.2	2.7	5.2
Nashua	2.6	4.2	2.8	5.0
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester	2.1	3.8	2.3	3.8
New Jersey[2]	4.5	5.2	4.5	5.0
Atlantic City	7.5	7.9	6.9	7.3
Bergen-Passaic	3.9	4.8	4.0	4.6
Jersey City	7.3	7.9	7.0	7.6
Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon	3.0	3.7	3.1	3.6
Monmouth-Ocean	4.5	5.1	4.3	4.9
Newark	4.5	5.2	4.5	5.1
Trenton	3.5	4.2	3.5	3.9
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.2
New Mexico	6.7	5.9	7.1	6.1
Albuquerque	4.9	4.3	5.2	4.7
Las Cruces	6.0	6.1	6.8	6.7
Santa Fe	4.6	4.3	4.6	3.4
New York[2]	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	5.2	4.1	5.0	4.4
Binghamton	5.4	4.5	5.4	5.3
Buffalo	7.0	5.4	6.9	5.6
Elmira	5.2	4.8	5.3	5.6
Nassau-Suffolk	4.3	3.5	4.1	3.8
New York	5.4	6.4	5.3	6.0
New York City[3]	5.7	7.0	5.6	6.5
Orange County	5.5	4.8	5.7	5.1
Poughkeepsie	4.1	3.0	4.4	3.2
Rochester	5.0	4.2	4.9	4.4
Syracuse	6.1	4.6	5.9	5.0
Utica-Rome	7.4	5.4	7.1	5.8
North Carolina[2]	4.5	4.6	3.8	3.9
Asheville	4.1	4.0	3.4	3.4
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill[1]	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.1
Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point	3.8	4.1	3.2	3.6
Raleigh-Durham	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.2
North Dakota	5.4	4.9	5.1	4.9
Bismarck	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.0
Fargo-Moorhead[1]	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.3
Grand Forks	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.6
Ohio[2]	6.8	7.6	5.8	6.5
Akron	7.0	7.2	6.0	6.1
Canton	7.1	7.8	6.3	7.3
Cincinnati[1]	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.7
Cleveland	5.9	6.0	5.0	5.3
Columbus	5.7	5.9	4.7	5.2
Dayton-Springfield	5.7	6.7	4.8	6.0
Toledo	7.0	10.4	6.1	7.4
Youngstown-Warren	8.3	11.4	7.2	7.8
Oklahoma	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.6
Enid	5.9	4.7	6.0	5.7
Lawton	5.3	5.0	5.4	6.3
Oklahoma City	5.2	7.2	5.3	5.3
Tulsa	6.7	5.9	7.4	6.8
Oregon	6.8	5.8	6.7	6.0
Eugene-Springfield	6.3	5.7	6.8	6.5
Portland	4.9	4.1	4.9	4.3
Salem	7.1	6.7	7.0	6.6
Pennsylvania[2]	5.0	5.9	4.9	6.3
Allentown-Bethlehem[1]	4.6	5.8	4.4	6.5
Altoona	7.4	8.8	7.4	8.0
Beaver County	8.8	9.2	8.5	9.9
Erie	5.6	6.8	5.5	7.1
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle	3.8	4.7	3.8	5.1
Johnstown	7.6	9.1	7.7	9.5
Lancaster	3.6	4.3	3.3	4.8
Philadelphia[1]	4.1	4.7	3.9	4.9
Pittsburgh	5.4	5.8	5.3	6.1
Reading	4.3	5.7	4.2	6.0
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre	6.2	7.7	5.9	8.3
Williamsport	6.5	8.1	6.8	8.6
York	4.6	5.1	3.9	5.2
Rhode Island	3.2	6.4	3.6	7.2
Pawtucket-Woonsocket-Attleboro[1]	4.0	6.9	4.3	7.9
Providence	3.0	6.1	3.4	6.8
South Carolina	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0
Charleston	3.9	3.5	4.0	3.5
Columbia	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.4
Greenville-Spartanburg	3.3	3.7	3.4	4.2
South Dakota	5.0	4.3	4.7	4.0
Rapid City	5.2	4.6	5.2	4.3
Sioux Falls	4.6	3.4	4.7	3.2
Tennessee	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.3
Chattanooga[1]	5.4	4.8	5.1	4.8
Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol[1]	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.8
Knoxville	6.8	5.7	6.1	5.8
Memphis[1]	5.3	4.4	4.8	4.4
Nashville	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Texas[2]	7.6	5.8	7.4	7.0
Abilene	7.0	5.4	7.0	6.6
Amarillo	6.8	4.5	6.4	6.2
Austin	6.0	4.2	5.6	5.0
Beaumont-Port Arthur	11.0	7.0	10.1	8.5
Brazoria	8.0	5.7	7.3	6.6
Brownsville-Harlingen	12.8	10.5	12.7	12.6
Bryan-College Station	5.6	3.4	4.9	4.3
Corpus Christi	9.1	6.4	8.9	7.8
Dallas	6.0	4.5	5.7	5.5
El Paso	11.0	9.7	10.9	12.2
Fort Worth-Arlington	6.1	4.7	5.9	6.2
Galveston-Texas City	8.6	6.3	7.8	8.0
Houston	6.6	4.7	6.3	5.7
Killeen-Temple	8.6	6.3	8.4	7.7
Laredo	14.9	11.7	15.0	12.1
Longview-Marshall	9.7	6.6	9.5	7.6
Lubbock	5.5	4.3	5.5	4.9
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	19.0	20.3	19.6	23.7
Midland	6.5	5.4	6.4	6.6
Odessa	8.9	6.3	8.9	7.6
San Angelo	6.7	5.3	5.9	6.2
San Antonio	8.0	6.0	7.7	7.5
Sherman-Denison	7.1	5.0	6.8	6.1
Texarkana[1]	8.4	5.7	8.4	6.6
Tyler	7.7	5.4	7.5	6.8
Victoria	7.0	5.6	6.4	6.1
Waco	6.5	5.1	6.1	6.0
Wichita Falls	6.7	5.2	6.8	6.3
Utah	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.6
Provo-Orem	4.2	3.6	4.5	4.2
Salt Lake City-Ogden	4.4	4.1	4.8	4.2
Vermont	3.4	4.4	3.6	4.4
Burlington	2.3	3.0	2.3	2.9
Virginia	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.4
Charlottesville	3.2	2.9	3.3	3.3
Danville	6.9	8.4	6.9	8.1
Lynchburg	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.6
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News	5.0	5.7	5.3	4.4
Richmond-Petersburg	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.9
Roanoke	4.4	3.5	4.4	4.2
Washington	7.0	6.5	7.0	6.4
Seattle	5.0	4.2	5.0	4.1
West Virginia	9.0	9.1	9.9	8.4
Charleston	7.7	6.9	8.7	6.5
Huntington-Ashland[1]	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.6
Parkersburg-Marietta[1]	7.8	7.3	8.1	7.2
Wheeling[1]	8.3	7.8	8.1	7.1
Wisconsin	4.8	5.8	5.1	5.1
Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah	4.6	5.3	4.8	4.8
Eau Claire	5.0	6.0	5.2	5.3
Green Bay	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.5
Janesville-Beloit	4.3	12.2	4.6	5.2
Kenosha	6.5	9.8	7.6	7.9
La Crosse	4.4	5.1	4.5	4.7
Madison	3.0	3.3	3.0	2.9
Milwaukee	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.8
Racine	4.6	5.9	5.1	5.5
Wausau	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.4
Wyoming	7.6	6.7	7.7	6.5

[1] Includes interstate portion of area located in adjacent state.

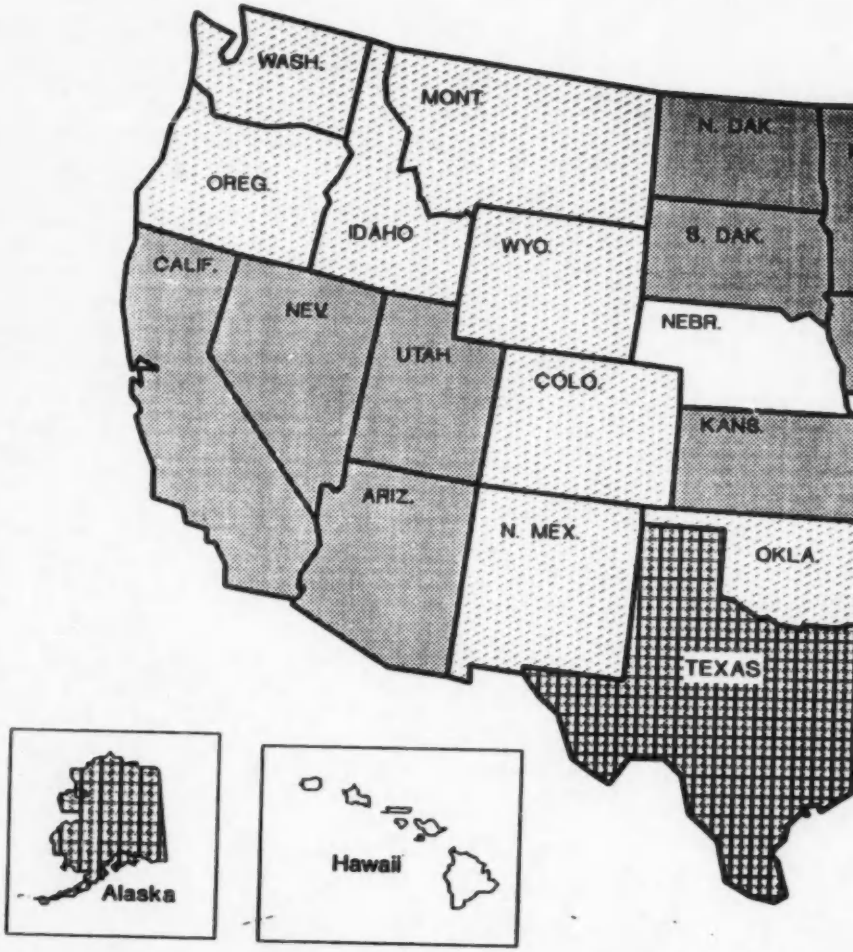
[2] Data are obtained directly from the Current Population Survey.

[3] Beginning with data for November 1989, labor force and unemployment estimates for New York City and the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area are based directly on the CPS. These current estimates are not strictly consistent with estimates for April 1988 through October 1989, which were based on the standardized procedure for sub-state estimation.

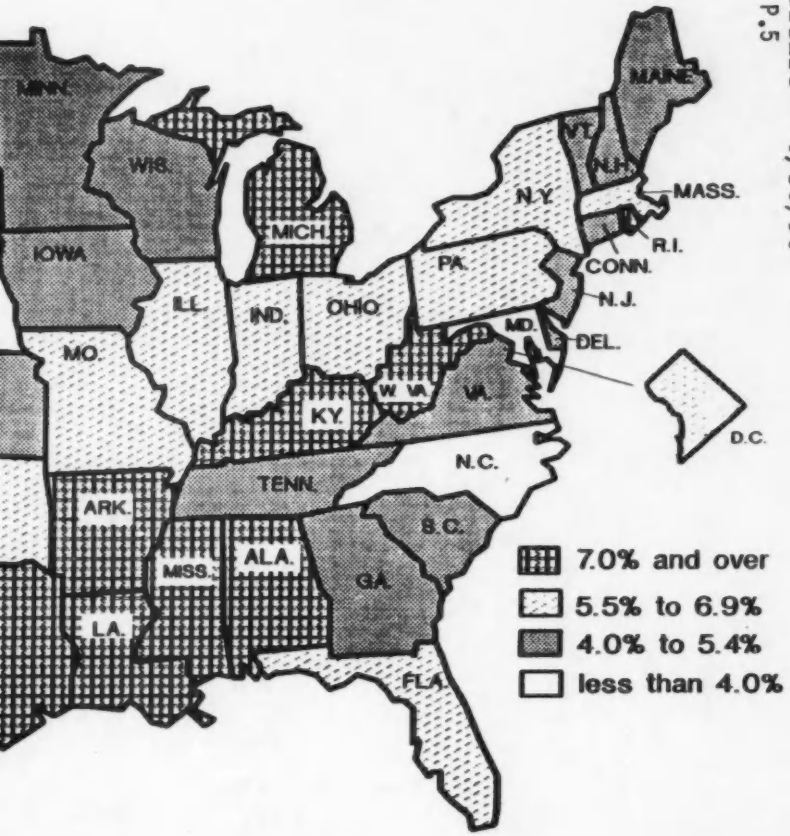
p = preliminary.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Estimates for 1989 have been benchmarked to 1989 Current Population Survey annual averages and may differ from data published earlier. Except in the 11 states and 2 areas available directly from the CPS, estimates for 1990 are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark information becomes available. See the Technical Note.

Unemployment rates by



state, February 1990



Week of April 30, 1990

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--MARCH 1990

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.5 percent before seasonal adjustment in March to a level of 128.7 (1982-84=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports. For the 12-month period ended in March, the CPI-U increased 5.2 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 0.6 percent in March prior to seasonal adjustment. The March 1990 CPI-W level of 127.1 was 5.2 percent higher than the index in March 1989.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.5 percent in March, the same as in February. Over two-thirds of the March advance was due to increases in the indexes for housing and apparel and upkeep. The rise in the housing component was largely the result of a 1.0 percent increase in homeowners' costs; partially offsetting this advance was a decline in household fuel prices. Motor fuel prices turned down in March, and coupled with a decrease in automobile purchase costs, were responsible for the decline in the transportation index. Food and beverage prices continued to increase--up 0.4 percent in March--but by less than in the preceding 2 months. Each of the other three major expenditure groups--medical care, entertainment and other goods and services--registered the same increase as in February.

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Week of April 30, 1990

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT

The first union of federal employees was formed by New York City letter carriers in 1863, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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The first national women's labor organization was the Daughters of St. Crispin, formed in 1867 by women who made shoes, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication. The union lasted until 1878.

# # #

The first national black labor organization was the Colored National Labor Union, formed in 1869, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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